

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 3 and FIG. 4. These sheets, which include FIG. 3 and FIG. 4, replace the original sheet including FIG. 3 and FIG. 4. In FIG. 3, the previously omitted elements 55, 60, 62, 64, and 70 have been added. In FIG. 4, the previously omitted elements 31 and 75 have been added. In FIG. 4, the previously element labeled as “50” is amended to be labeled as “25,” consistent with the original specification.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
 Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending herein. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 14-16 are amended to correct typographical errors and correct informalities. Claim 14 is also amended to provide for proper antecedent basis.

Paragraphs [0020], [0021], [0028], [0029], [0031], [0032], and [0034] are amended to include numerical reference numbers relating to the amended drawings. The Abstract is amended to overcome an objection to the language.

FIG. 3 and FIG. 4 are amended to include elements of the claimed invention to which the Patent Office requested be shown and labeled in the in Drawings.

Accordingly, no new matter is added by this Amendment.

I. Drawings

The Patent Office objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for allegedly not showing every figure of the invention as specified in the claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection.

In particular, the Patent Office requested that the drawings include the “series of brackets” on the first disc, the “bearing clutch,” the “third disc,” the “second independently rotating means,” the “one or more openings” in the second disc, the one “or more” outer discs as set forth in claim 8, and the “safety material.”

By this Amendment, FIGS. 3 and 4 are amended to include the requested features of the invention.

In particular, FIG. 3 is amended to show “the series of brackets” as 60; the “bearing” as 62; the third disc as 55; the second independently rotating means as 64; and the one or more outer discs as 62.

FIG. 4 is amended to show the “one or more openings” in the second disc as 31 and the “safety material” as 75.

No new matter is added by these amendments to the claims.

As the drawings have been amended to show features of the present invention to which the Patent Office requested be shown in the drawings, Applicants submit that the objection to the drawings has been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

II. Specification

The Patent Office objected to the Abstract of the present specification for allegedly including the word “means.” Applicants respectfully traverse the objection.

By this Amendment, the Abstract is amended to recite “pawl and catch mechanism” in place of the “independently rotating means.” The pawl and catch mechanism is an exemplary embodiment of the independently rotating means as set forth, for example, in the specification at paragraph [0024].

By amending the Abstract to recite an exemplary embodiment of the independently rotating means, Applicants submit that the objection to the Abstract is overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract are respectfully requested.

The Patent Office also objected to the specification for allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

In particular, the Patent Office objected to an alleged lack of description for the second disc having openings as set forth in claim 7. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection.

By this Amendment, paragraph [0021] of the present specification and FIG. 4 are amended to recite that the second disc has openings as set forth in claim 7. Applicants submit that such Amendment is justified and relied upon by the subject matter recited in original claim 7.

As the specification and associated FIG. 4 have been amended, Applicants submit that the objection to the description has been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

The Patent Office also objected to an alleged lack of description for there being more than one outer disc as set forth in claim 8. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection.

Applicants respectfully point out that paragraph [0032] of the originally filed specification of the present invention recites that “[a]nother exemplary embodiment comprises one or more outer discs outside of the first disc, that is, further from a center of the wheel than the first disc. The one or more outer discs may move in conjunction with the bicycle wheel and first disc or independently in a manner substantially similar to that described above for the second disc and third disc.”

(Emphasis added.)

As the originally filed Specification clearly sets forth that the possible presence of one or more outer discs as set forth in claim 8, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

In addition, the Patent Office objected to an alleged lack of description for the second disc having a smaller diameter than the first disc. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection.

Applicants respectfully point out that in paragraph [0041] of the originally filed specification of the present invention, it is set forth that “[i]n the various exemplary embodiments, it is preferred that the second disc have a smaller diameter than the first disc.” (Emphasis added.)

As the originally filed Specification clearly sets forth that the second disc may have a smaller diameter than the first disc, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

III. Claim Objections

The Patent Office objected to claims 15 and 16 for allegedly containing informalities in grammar. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection.

In particular, the Patent Office objected to the recitation of the word “had” in each of claims 15 and 16, and submitted that the word “had” should recite “has.”

By this Amendment, each of claims 15 and 16 are amended to correct the typographical error and recite “has” instead of “had.”

Further, the Patent Office objected to claim 16 for reciting a “pair of first discs” in line 5 of the claim, but reciting only “first disc” in lines 6 and 7 of the same claim.

By this Amendment, claim 16 is amended to recite “pair of first discs” instead of “first disc” as originally recited in lines 6 and 7 of claim 16.

In view of the amendments to claims 15 and 16, Applicants submit that the objection to the claims is overcome and that claims 15 and 16 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

IV. Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112 Second Paragraph

Claims 1-19 were rejected by the Patent Office under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Application traverses the rejection.

In particular, the Patent Office alleged that the “backside” as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 16 is inferentially set forth and is not clear which side of the cover this would be or how many backsides would be present.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 16 are amended to correct a typographical error to recite “back side” instead of “backside.” Support for the amendment is found, for example, in the present specification at paragraph [0025] and FIG. 3.

Applicant respectfully submits that is clearly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art where the location the “back side” of the pair of first discs is based upon the present specification and associated drawings. Further, it is understood by one ordinary skill in the art that each disc of the pair of discs has a single back side located on the side of each of the discs that is closest to the center of the wheel.

In view of the amendment to independent claims 1 and 16 and the above explanation, Applications respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 16 have overcome the rejection and are both in condition for allowance.

Further, the Patent Office alleged that the “first plate” of claim 14 lacks antecedent basis.

By this Amendment, claim 14 is amended to recite the “first disc” instead of the “first plate.” The “first plate” recited in claim 14 was a typographical error that

should have recited the “first disc.” The “first disc” has antecedent basis in independent claim 1, to which claim 14 is directly dependent upon.

As claim 14 has been amended to correct a typographical error and provide proper antecedent basis, Applications submit that the rejection is overcome and that claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1, 16, and 14 have overcome the rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Patent Office has indicated that the subject matter of claims 1-19 appear to be allowable over the prior art of record pending correction of the objections to the drawings, the specification, and the objections and rejections to the claims, as set forth in the June 23, 2006 Office Action.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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DML/hs

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Attachments:

Appendix
Petition for Extension of Time

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